



Plan to Prevent Alcohol Sales to Under-aged

Camarillo, Calif., May 6, 2005 - In an effort to ensure that local retailers are not selling alcoholic beverages to minors, the Public Safety Department of California State University Channel Islands and Sheriff's Deputies from the Camarillo Police Department carried out a joint operation task force last night, Thursday, May 5.

Nine local retail establishments were visited by an under-age male customer who, working with law enforcement, attempted to buy alcoholic beverages. If the clerk sold alcohol to the customer, Sheriff's Deputies moved in and cited the on-duty clerk.

In all two citations were issued. All others complied with the law and refused to sell liquor to the under-age young adults. Additional actions to those issued citations will include the reporting of the illegal activity to the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, traffic crashes continue to be the leading cause of death for 15-20 year olds. In 2003, 3,657 drivers 15 to 20 years of age were killed and 308,000 were injured in motor vehicles. Nearly 31 percent of teen drivers killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2003 had been drinking.

The University planned this proactive exercise to strongly discourage alcohol sales to all minors, including the growing college population at Cal State Channel Islands.

In describing the goal of the exercise, CSUCI Police Chief Jeff Young said, "Our primary concern is the safety of the campus community. With the addition of new student housing and increasing numbers of students coming to and from the campus, we want to do all in our power to keep these young men and women, as well as the community at large, safe. We want to send a clear message to those that would endanger us all by selling alcohol to minors, that by working closely with our colleagues at the Camarillo Police Department, we will take all appropriate steps to put a stop to these illegal sales."

CSUCI, working with Camarillo Police Department staff, plans to carry out these spot checks on a regular basis.